

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device adapted to facilitate the inserting of objects under a folded roof stored in a rear boot of a motor vehicle, the vehicle comprising a body, a passenger compartment, a hood adapted to move between a closed position closing the rear boot and an open position opening said boot, the roof being movable between a deployed position in which it covers the passenger compartment, and a folded, stored position in which the roof is stored into the boot, the roof comprising a rear roof element and at least one additional roof element-which is located in front of the rear roof element when the roof is in the deployed position, and above the rear roof element when the roof is in the folded, stored position, the rear roof element comprising a finger bar adapted to slide along a guiding rail which is fixed to the body of the vehicle and which comprises a storage section used to guide the roof between its deployed position and the folded, stored position, and a raising section extending along the storage section and adapted to guide the folded roof between its folded, stored position and a folded, raised position in which, the hood of the rear boot being in the open position, the folded roof at least partially projects out of the boot, the device comprising a raising device mounted in a movable manner between a low position and a high position, and adapted to guide the finger bar along the raising section, wherein a securing means is fitted to the raising device in a movable manner between an open position and a closed position in which the securing means is adapted to support and to immobilize said at least one additional roof element with respect to the rear roof element, when the roof is moved between its folded, stored position and its folded, raised position.

2. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein the securing means is located behind and in the immediate vicinity of the additional roof element when the roof is in the folded, raised position.

3. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein the securing means is rotary mounted with respect to the raising device, around a transverse axis of rotation and located behind said at least one additional roof element when the roof is in the folded, stored position.

4. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein a groove integral to the body is used to guide an end of the raising arm adjacent to the securing means.

5. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one additional roof element comprises a plurality of additional roof elements, and the securing means has a front face including, for each additional roof element, a recess adapted to receive, in the closed position, a stub which is integral to the corresponding additional roof element.

6. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 5, wherein it comprises, for each additional roof element, a bearing surface adapted to support the corresponding additional roof element when the securing means is in the open position and the roof is in the folded, stored position.

7. (Currently Amended)[.] The device set forth in claim 6, wherein[;]:
[-] each recess is delimited by an upper side wall and by a lower side wall which projects forward past the upper side wall and which defines the corresponding bearing surface;
[-] the additional roof elements comprise a central roof element and a front roof element which is located in front of the central roof element when the roof is in the deployed position, and above the central roof element when the roof is in the folded, stored position[.];

stubs are integral to the central roof element and the front roof element respectively; and
[-] the additional roof elements are arranged so that, when the roof is close to its folded, stored position, the stub of the central roof element is located further forward than the stub of the front roof element so as not to push against the bearing surface of the stub of the front roof element.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 6, wherein all the bearing surfaces are located on a support element which is fitted to the raising device in a movable manner between an admission position and a reception position in which each bearing surface is adapted to support the corresponding additional roof element when the roof is in the folded, stored position.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 9, wherein[.];
[-] the additional roof elements comprise a central roof element and a front roof element which is located in front of the central roof element when the roof is in the deployed position, and above the central roof element when the roof is in the folded position[.]; and
[-] the support element comprises a lower leg and an upper leg fixed to each other, each being adapted to respectively define the bearing surface of the central roof element and that of the front roof element, when the support element is in the reception position.

12. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 9, wherein:
the additional roof elements comprise a central roof element and a front roof element which is located in front of the central roof element when the roof is in the deployed position;
the support element comprises a lower leg and an upper leg fixed to each other;
[-] activating means are used to bring into contact the support element and to guide it from its admission position to its reception position[.]; and,

[-] said activating means comprise the stub of the central roof element which is used to bring into contact the lower leg when the support element is in the admission position and when the roof, whilst folding, is in an intermediate position adjacent to its folded, stored position, and to guide the support element until it reaches its reception position when the roof moves from its intermediate position to its folded, stored position.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 9, wherein, when the roof is in the folded, stored position, the securing means is in the closed position and the support element is in the reception position, [each] stubs [is] are inserted into [a cavity] cavities respectively defined by the corresponding bearing surface of the support element and the corresponding recess of the securing means.

16. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein controlling means are used to bring the securing means into contact therewith and to guide it from its open position and its closed position.

17. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 16, wherein:
[-] the controlling means are disposed on the rear roof element[,]; and
[-] the controlling means comprise a push button mounted so as to be movable in a straight line with a guide fixed to the rear roof element, between a normal position and a stop position in which the securing means is in the closed position, said push button being adapted to come into contact with a contact surface located on a front face of the securing means.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim[s] 5 [and 17], wherein:

the securing means is rotary mounted with respect to the raising device, around a transverse axis of rotation and located behind said plurality of additional roof elements when the roof is in the folded, stored position; and

[-] the axis of rotation is located between the contact surface and the recesses.

[- a nut fixed to the push button is used to engage a threaded end of a rotative arm extended along a direction, so as to guide the push button in a straight line according to the direction of extension of the arm, and

- an end of the arm opposite the threaded end is fixed to a motor attached to the rear roof element.]

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in 1, wherein[:];

[-] folding and unfolding the roof is controlled by at least one deployment arm and guided by at least one [building] guiding rail[:]; and[:]

[-] said at least one deployment arm is connected to rear link arm linking the rear roof element to the adjacent, additional roof element, by means of a gearing mechanism and in that a disengaging mechanism is used to disengage the deployment arm from the gearing mechanism.

24. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 23, wherein the gearing mechanism comprises an upstream sprocket which is fixed to an end of the deployment arm and which is rotary mounted to the rear roof element around a hinge line, a downstream sprocket which is fixed to an end of a rear link arm by which the rear roof element is linked to the additional roof element adjacent to it, and which is rotary mounted to the rear roof element around an axis of transmission, and a central sprocket

which is rotary mounted to the rear roof element and which is driven by the upstream sprocket and the downstream sprocket.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein folding and unfolding the roof is controlled by at least one deployment arm and guided by at least one guiding rail, and, a hinge line around which the rear roof element is fitted in a movable manner to said at least one deployment arm guiding the roof between its deployed, stored position and its folded position and the swivel axis around which the raising device is fitted in a movable manner to the body of the vehicle are coaxial when the roof is in its folded, stored position.

29. (New) The device set forth in claim 17, wherein a nut fixed to the push button is used to engage a threaded end of a rotative arm extended along a direction, so as to guide the push button in a straight line according to the direction of extension of the arm.

30. (New) The device set forth in claim 29, wherein an end of the arm opposite the threaded end is fixed to a motor attached to the rear roof element.